

## Resident to help name academy cadets

Thursday, December 15, 2005

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A Powell resident and former Army officer has been named to a committee that will select cadets for the the U.S. Military, Naval, Air Force and Merchant Marine academies.

U.S. Rep. Pat Tiberi recently named Thomas J. Ratcliff to the post.

"I was humbled to join this purposeful mission, to assemble those men and women who who seek to serve this nation in today's world. The academies are the premier leadership institutes in the world," Ratcliff said.

Ratcliff himself was a West Point graduate, and attended Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

Ratcliff served in the Army as a helicopter pilot, before an injury ended his career. He serves on numerous boards and organizations, including Disabled American Veterans, Ohio Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen and the World War II Memorial.

Ratcliff also was veterans' director for former Sen. Bob Dole during his 1996 presidential campaign and was the Ohio campaign manager for Elizabeth Dole's 2000 presidential bid.

Most recently, Ratcliff founded "Soldier-Statesman," a nonprofit organization with the aim of highlighting community service and positive character in members and veterans of military branches. He started the organization this summer.

"In the more recent and unsettling examples of Enron, Tyco, WorldCom and other similar cases, less scrupulous leaders chose self-promotion and excess over selfless service or empowering others in their charge," Ratcliff said.

"(Many soldiers) never stop serving as long as they live. It's incumbent upon those with honor and integrity to be the pebble in others' shoes, so that they always choose the harder right over the easier wrong," he said.

Ratcliff said he was inspired to military service and to create Soldier-Statesmen by his grandfathers' service in two world wars. His paternal grandfather served in World War I and his maternal grandfather served in World War II.

He said he ideally would like to celebrate the achievements of fellow soldiers who carry their passion for service into their everyday lives.

"It was abundantly clear to me at last year's dedication of the World War II Memorial that America and the world were finally understanding more than the 'Greatest Generation's' service in combat and conflict. There seemed to be a global reflection on their more overarching example of living a life devoted to something other than self," he said.

For more information on Soldier Statesmen, visit [www.soldier-statesmen.org](http://www.soldier-statesmen.org).